(c) what steps Government contemplate to stop such unsocial activities by unscrupulous parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One case each was detected in the past few months by Bombay and Delhi Custom Houses where wrongful claims of duty drawback by producing forged documents was attempted. At Bombay a firm in the name and style of M/s. Suraj Exports had presented forged copies of shipping and related documents for three consignments involving total drawback of Rs. 6,04,300 in October/November, 1988 without effecting any exports. The fraud was detected when on suspicion about the genuineness of the claim, enquiries were carried out by Special Investigation and Central Intelligence Units of the Custom House. A partner of the firm was apprehended and detained. Further investigations are being carried out about the modus operandi, persons involved, etc.

At Delhi, in a somewhat similar case detected in June, 1988, a firm M/s. United Craft International of Delhi had claimed fraudulently Rs. 5,25,047 as drawback on forged documents. But when another similar claim, for Rs. 1,37,288 was presented, on doubts about its bonafides enquiries were conducted, when the forged nature of the documents came to light. Two persons connected with the fraudulent claims were arrested and a criminal complaint against them has been filed.

(c) All Custbm Houses have been alerted and the modus operandi adopted in these cases brought to their notice. Custom Houses have also been asked to immediately plug the loopholes in the existing procedure to enable quick detection of any attempt of fraud. Severe and deterrent action in both departmental adjudication and in courts of law will be taken, as appropriate, against the persons involved.

Export of leather products

229. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the yearwise and destinationwise exports, along with the quantity and value, of shoe uppers and all other leather semi-finished products, separately from 1980-81 to 1988-89;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain foreign countries are importing the shoe uppers from India making payments in rupees under bilateral arrangements and thereafter earning hard currency by re-exporting such goods to countries like West Germany; and

(c) if so, What precautions are being taken to prevent such misuse of bilateral trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The Trade Agreements with Rupee Payment Area countries provide that all goods exported to them from India shall not be re-exported to any other country.

Bank advances given to the rural sector

230. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports that com: pared to the urban sector, the rural sector is given less percentage of bank advances against the deposits made by the sector in public sector banks and that rural deposits are thus diverted for giving disproportionate advances to the urban sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details of deposits and advances of public sector banks in relation to rural and urban sectors separately for the period 1980 to

1988 yearwise and to what extent the above reports are justified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FI NANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The details of deposits, advances and credit: deposit ratio of public sector banks in respect of rural and urban areas are set out below, which indicate that over a period of years the gap between credit deposit ratio of rural and urban sector has been narrowed down.

(Amount in Rs. crores)

Year	Deposit	Credit	C:D Ratio (%)
RURAL SECTOR			
1980	4182	2288	54.7
1981	5330	3058	57.4
1982	6582	3747	56.9
1983	7771	4471	57.5
1984	8457	5166	61.1
1985	10363	6144	59.3
1986	12435	7523	60.5
1987	15032	8836	58.8
1988* (September)	16340	9543	58.4
URBAN SECTOR			
1980	29429	20109	68.3
1981	34899	24109	69.1
1982	40768	28223	69.2
1983	47812	32320	67.6
1984	58550	38824	66.3
1985	67334	43758	65.0
1986	80080	49257	61.5
1987	92170	54686	59.3
1988	101254	59208	58.5

*Data are provisional

Difficulties being faced by small investors in selling shares in joint stock companies

231. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of enough facilities to sell odd lots of shares in joint stock companies is causing great hardship to small investors; if so, what steps are being taken to redress this situation;

(b) whether some general insurance companies have been authorised to buy such lots; if so, what are the names and addresses of the offices of such companies which accept such lots;

(c) what are the reasons for which these insurance companies are not giving wide press publicity in this regard to help small investors; and

(d) whether it is a fact that no press advertisements were issued so far by these companies at least in South India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FI NANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Considering the prob lems faced by small investors, Stock Ex changes as well as some institutions have initiated special facilities for trading in odd lots of securities.

(b) The four subsidiaries of the-General Insurance Corporationm namely (1) New India Assurance Co. Ltd., 87, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort, Bombay-400023, (2) Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. Oriental House, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi-110002; (3) United India Insurance Co. Ltd., 24, Whites Road, Madras-600014 and (4) National Insurance Co. Ltd. 3, Mddleton Street, Calcutta-700071, have been authorised to buy odd lots of shares. These subsidiaries are at present operating a scheme for purchase of odd lots of shares.